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City of Riverside

NEWS RELEASE

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RIVERSIDE ARTISTS AND ARTS ORGANIZATIONS HONORED ***-- Arts Honoree of the Month Award presented at City Council meetings --***

Riverside, CA – The City of Riverside, Riverside Arts Council and Riverside Cultural Trust recently instated the **Arts Honoree of the Month** awards. To recognize the contribution that the arts make to the quality of life of the Riverside community, the awards will highlight cultural organizations and individuals that exhibit artistic excellence as well as service to the community. Awards are presented at the third City Council meeting of the month and are broadcast on Channel 32.

The Arts Honoree of the Month for December 2003 is the California Riverside Ballet. The Ballet is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing free dance training to aspiring young artists in order to encourage future careers in professional dance. Through performances such as the upcoming *The Nutcracker* on December 20-22, the Ballet aims to introduce the community to the art of ballet by providing quality, low-cost productions and free outreach performances to tens of thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds each year.

“Riverside is the center for arts and culture in the Inland Empire,” says Riverside Mayor

Ron Loveridge. “We offer an outstanding venue of performing and visual arts. The Arts Honoree of the Month award is just one way we can recognize and highlight the valuable organizations and individuals which make arts and culture one of the defining aspects of the City of Riverside.”

Previous honorees include the UCR/California Museum of Photography and the Riverside Community Arts Association. The inaugural awards ceremony took place in October 2003 as a celebration of National Arts & Humanities Month and California Arts Day.

The Riverside Cultural Trust is an organization dedicated to promoting economic development, revitalization of downtown Riverside, and the development of arts and culture and arts entertainment within the Arts and Culture District. For more information call

The mission of the Riverside Arts Council is to promote, develop and sustain the arts. For more than 25 years, the Arts Council has provided visual and performing arts programs, services, education and outreach to citizens of all ages in communities throughout the city and the county of Riverside. For more information about the Riverside Arts Council, call (909) 680-1345 or visit www.riversideartscouncil.org.

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